



Legislative Bulletin.....April 5, 2005

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Summary of the Bill Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$0

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 0

Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 0

H.Res. 108—Commemorating the life of the late Zurab Zhvania, Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia (Gallegly)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 5th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 108 would resolve that the House:

- “expresses its sympathy and deepest condolences to the family of Zurab Zhvania for their tragic loss of a son, husband, and father, and to the people of the Republic of Georgia for the death of their Prime Minister;
- “commends the courage, energy, political imagination, and leadership of Zurab Zhvania that were so critical to the development of a democratic Republic of Georgia;
- “recognizes that the integration of the Republic of Georgia into Euro-Atlantic institutions will be the completion of the vision of Zurab Zhvania and his most lasting legacy; and
- “expresses its solidarity with the people and Government of the Republic of Georgia at this difficult time.”

Additional Background: Zurab Zhvania became Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia in November of 2003 and soon became known for his economic, judicial, military, and social reforms in Georgia. On February 3, 2005, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia, Zurab Zhvania, died at the age of 41, apparently due to carbon monoxide poisoning caused by a malfunctioning heater.

Committee Action: On March 9, 2005, the International Relations Committee marked up the resolution and forwarded it to the full House for consideration under suspension of the rules.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

RSC Staff Contact: Paul S. Teller, paul.teller@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9718

H.Res. 120—Commending the outstanding efforts by members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development in response to the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004 (*Blumenauer*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 5th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 120 would resolve that the House:

- “commends the outstanding efforts in response to the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004, by members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development;
- “recognizes that the actions of these individuals went above and beyond the call of duty; and
- “thanks them for their service.”

The resolution also notes that, “members of the Armed Forces volunteered their unique resources to assess the situation and deliver aid when and where other relief efforts could not,” and “civilian employees of the Department of State and USAID showed great leadership in helping to coordinate relief efforts among donors, United Nations agencies, international organizations, aid agencies, and host governments.”

Additional Background: On December 26, 2004, an earthquake and the resulting tsunami struck the Indian Ocean basin, killing over 250,000 people in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Somalia, Burma, Maldives, Malaysia, Tanzania, Bangladesh, and Kenya.

Committee Action: On March 9, 2005, the International Relations Committee marked up the resolution and forwarded it to the full House for consideration under suspension of the rules.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

RSC Staff Contact: Paul S. Teller, paul.teller@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9718

H.Con.Res. 34—Honoring the life and contributions of Yogi Bhajan, a leader of Sikhs, and expressing condolences to the Sikh community on his passing (*Udall, Tom*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 5th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 34 would resolve that Congress:

- “recognizes that the teachings of Yogi Bhajan about Sikhism and yoga, and the businesses formed under his inspiration, improved the personal, political, spiritual, and professional relations between citizens of the United States and the citizens of India;

- “recognizes the legendary compassion, wisdom, kindness, and courage of Yogi Bhajan, and his wealth of accomplishments on behalf of the Sikh community; and
- “extends its condolences to Inderjit Kaur, the wife of Yogi Bhajan, his three children and five grandchildren, and to Sikh and 3HO communities around the Nation and the world upon the death on October 6, 2004, of Yogi Bhajan, an individual who was a wise teacher and mentor, an outstanding pioneer, a champion of peace, and a compassionate human being.”

Additional Background: Yogi Bhajan founded the “Healthy, Happy, Holy Organization (3HO),” a non-profit to improve physical well-being and deepen spiritual awareness, with 300 centers in 35 countries. In 1971, he was given the title of Siri Singh Sahib, making him the chief religious and administrative authority in the Western Hemisphere, according to the resolution. He died on October 6, 2004, at the age of 75.

Committee Action: On March 9, 2005, the International Relations Committee marked up the resolution and forwarded it to the full House for consideration under suspension of the rules.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

RSC Staff Contact: Russ Vought, russell.vought@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-1630